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Secrt. II-37—100,000—21-5-48.

Home (1949) Department.

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No.	Ms 3549
Dated	24 9.49

[Despatch Abstract.]

PASSPORTS - Visa Regulations of Afghanistan:
Letter from the Government of India - Recorded.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

New Delhi, the 16th September, 1949.

Forwarded

(Circular No. PIA 161, dated the 16th September, 1949).

M. Ramaswami.
Under Secretary to the Ministry
of External Affairs.

To

All Passport Issuing Authorities in India.

SP/2.7. /True Copy/

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Circular No. PIA, 161
Circular No. PV, 92
F. 18(32)-PV(I)/48.

New Delhi, the 16th September, 1949.

VISA REGULATIONS OF AFGHANISTAN.

A copy of a Note on the Visa Regulations of Afghanistan is forwarded herewith for information and guidance.

2. Indians and other British subjects are exempted from the payment of visas fees on a reciprocal basis.

(Sd) M. Ramaswami.
Under Secretary to the Ministr of External Affairs.

To

All Passport Issuing Authorities in India,
All Indian Representatives abroad.

SP/3.7. (TRUE COPY)

VISA REGULATIONS OF AFGHANISTAN

(TRANSLATION OF AFGHAN CODE PERTAINING TO JOURNEY AND RESIDENCE OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN AFGHANISTAN).

PART I.

ARRIVALS.

1. Foreign nationals wishing to cross the Afghan border or to reside in Afghanistan must get their passport visaed at the Afghan Visa Offices and Consulates or at the Consulates of other governments competent or entrusted by the Afghan Government to perform these functions.

2. Foreign nationals, visiting Afghanistan must produce their passports before the competent Afghan Officials, at the frontier localities and aerodromes specified by the Afghan Government for purposes of entry in and exit from Afghanistan.

3. Fee for each entry visa and transit visa is Afghanis* 5/-. Each visa is valid for a single journey only.

Note - An unused entry visa is considered as invalid if a period of four months has elapsed since the date of its issue.

4. Unless they have valid grounds, the holders of transit visas cannot stay formore than three days in a particular locality in Afghanistan. Nor is their period of stay in Afghanistan to exceed forty days in all.

5. In each journey performed by mule and camel drivers, a visa fee of Afghanis 1/50 is recoverable. This fee amounts to Afghanis 2/- in the case of a journey performed by motor drivers, cleaners and tonga drivers.

The long term visa specifically intended for mule and camel drivers, motor drivers, cleaners and tonga drivers of foreign nationality is valid for inward and outward journeys performed within six months. The visa fee for such visa is Afghanis 75/- in the case of motor drivers and cleaners and Afghanis 30/- in the case of tonga drivers.

6. Visas on diplomatic passports are given by the Afghan Diplomatic Missions and in localities where no such Diplomatic Missions exist, such visas are issued by such consulates-general as are empowered to do so. Diplomatic visas are granted gratis.

7. Diplomatic and consular officers accredited to the Afghan Government for purpose of accomplishing their official missions on the basis of the Agreements concluded with Afghanistan and similarly diplomatic Representatives visiting Afghanistan to participate in Commissions and Conferences relating to Internationals affairs are granted visas gratis which are valid for an indefinite number of journeys performed by them until the period of their respective missions is over

8. The arrival of the following classes of people in Afghanistan is forbidden:-

(a) Beggars, vagabonds and those who have no means of subsistence.

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(b) Those who have been deported from Afghanistan for a specified period of time but have not yet completed their terms of deportation and those who have been deported for an indefinite period of time.

(c) Those who are suspected of causing a breach in the general peace and order to the Afghan Government.

(d) The arrival in Afghanistan of the persons who have renounced Afghan nationality or have been deprived of it is forbidden.

Note:- Even if they may possess regular passports, the above mentioned classes of people will not be issued with entry visas. Nor will they be permitted to enter Afghanistan.

PART II.

RESIDENCE.

9. Newly arriving foreign nationals taking up their residence in private houses are under an obligation to show their passports and report their arrivals to the police of the city or to the police of the area in which they reside, within 48 hours of their arrival. Should such persons take up their residence in public places like hotels and serais; ~~etc.~~, the Serai or the hotel keepers, etc. are under the obligation to record the identity of these newly arriving persons at once in the declaration forms, for delivery to the department concerned, within specified time.

Note:- The printed copies of these declaration forms are supplied to hotel keepers, etc. by the competent authorities The details of the identity of the foreign nationals at these hotels, etc. are entered in the declaration forms in accordance with the entries of their passports or permits de-sejours.

10. Foreign nationals intending to travel or reside in Afghanistan for more than 10 days must show their pass passport to the competent authorities, declare the place of their visit and object and take out a permit de sejour of their residence.

Note:- The printed copy of permit de sejour bears a serial No. and is issued gratis. The period of its validity is one year. It is renewable after the expiry of a year.

11. Those who change their first place of residence for a period exceeding one week, must report the change to the competent authorities of their former place of residence as well as to the competent authorities of the place where they arrive and thus obtain a visa (endorsement) on their permits de sejours. This visa (endorsement) is issued gratis.

12. The holders of the transit visas who, on valid grounds, are unable to leave Afghanistan within the time specified in clause (4) of this Code are under an obligation to report the matter to the competent authorities giving reasons for their inability to leave Afghanistan. The competent authorities will thereupon extend the period of the transit visas after examining the validity of the reasons ~~putward~~ put-forward to them.

13. Foreign nationals can, in accordance with the conditions laid down in this Code, travel and reside in any part of Afghanistan, excepting the places in which entry or residence is forbidden by the Government of Afghanistan, on military or administrative considerations.

PART III.

EXIT.

14. Foreign nationals intending to go out of Afghanistan are duty bound to call at the competent department and have their passports visaed. The holders of the transit visas are to be treated as exempt from this rule.

15. The time limit of an exit visa is double the time ordinarily spent in traversing the distance lying between the place where such a visa is granted and the frontier of the place where it is desired to proceed. The fixation of these distances in the case of each place is within the competence of the Foreign Ministry.

The exit visa not used within the period of its validity must necessarily be renewed.

Note - The exit visa is issued gratis.

16. Subject to the receipt of official intimati from the authorities concerned, the exit visas are not given to the foreign nationals who are in debt to the Afghan Government Treasury, or against whom legal proceedings are conducted by the police or whose exits have been temporarily stopped by the court.

PART IV

PENALTIES.

17. Foreign nationals entering Afghanistan without taking out visas from the competent authorities are liable to be sentenced to punishment.

18. Persons discovered as entering Afghanistan by forging travel papers or documents issued to them by the foreign governments concerned or residing in Afghnistan by forging the permits de sejour granted to them by the Afghan Government are liable to be sentenced to imprisonment ranging from one month to eight months.

Those discovered using others' passports, travel documents or permits de sejour, in their own names are liable to be sentenced to an imprisonment varying from three days to six months and to the payment of a fine varying from Afghanis five to Afghanis 500.

19. Persons entering Afghan territory by routes other than the frontier routes fixed for entry into Afghanistan are, even if they possess regular passports, and visas, liable to undergo penalties under clause 23 of the Afgha Passport Code, Unless they enter Afghanistan on obligatory grounds.

20. Those deported from Afghanistan for a definite period of time but discovered as having returned to Afghanistan before the expiry of the fixed time or those deported from Afghanistan for an indefinite period of time but discovered as having returned to Afghanistan without official permission will be liable to have their passport confiscated. They will also be liable to undergo an imprisonment varying from one to six months or to a fine ranging from Afghanis 500 to 2,500 or even to both the above - mentioned penalties which will run concurrently. After these penalties have been imposed, these persons will be deported from Afghanistan again.

21. If the mule and camel drivers, motor drivers

and pilots who are engaged in transporting passengers and those who are engaged in guiding them are found entering ~~and~~ the Afghan border, along with their passengers, by routes other than the frontier routes fixed for the passage of passengers, both the penalties mentioned in the above-mentioned clause will be applicable in their case.

22. If the hotel and serai keeper who are under an obligation to pay due regard to the provisions of clause 9 above, do not abide by the provisions of the said clause, they are liable to pay a fine of Afghanis 100/- and if they are found guilty of repeating this offence within the period of a year they are liable to be sentenced to a week's imprisonment, over and above the payment in cash of a fine amounting to ~~A~~ Afghanis 500/-.

23. Foreign nationals, failing to pay due regard to the provisions of clauses 9 to 13 above, will be held liable on behalf of the competent authorities, to pay, in cash a fine of Afghanis 50/-.

PART V.

MISCELLANEOUS RULES.

24. The rules relating to the entry and exit of the diplomatic and consular officers and other diplomatic representatives mentioned in clause 7 will be governed by the provisions of the rules and regulations of International Law:-

25. The Afghan Government are competent to:-

(a) forbid the entry of the foreigners suffering from infectious diseases likely to threaten or interfere with health in general;

(b) impose necessary restrictions on passport and entry of nationals of some or all states, in one or all places situated in the country of Afghanistan, in the event of a war or some other extraordinary conditions;

(c) deal with certain foreign governments on special and reciprocal basis, as regards the time limits of visas and visa fees;

(d) regulate the entry and exit of the officers of the neighbouring governments in and out of the frontier areas, on the basis of reciprocity ~~and in city~~ and in accordance with the requirements of the duties of such officials;

(e) regulate the coming and going of the natives of the frontiers of neighnouring governments in an out of Afghan Frontier Areas, on the basis of reciprocal treatment and in the form of "PASSAVANTS" (RAHDARIS).

26. Foreign nationals entering the border area without regular passports or visas are under an obligation to obtain the regular passports and visas within one week (of thei arrival), otherwise the Afghan Government is competent to depott such persons.

/True Copy/

27. Outside Afghanistan, the money due, in Afghan currency, in accordance with the provisions of this Code, is recoverable, according to the rate fixed by the Foreign Ministry and the Mihistry of Finance every three months.

PART VI

AMENDMENTS TO AFGHAN CODES.

The foreign nationals who have once secured residential visas in Afghanistan need not renew their visas and pay the visa fees on their re-entry into Afghanistan after their exist on their personal business within the time limit of their visas. It is necessary that they should get permission from the Police Department both at the time of exit from the and entry into Afghanistan, as is shown in their passports according to the exit and entry visas.

According to the provisions of this amendmeth, the concerned Departments shaal be competent, in times of urgency, to grant several journey visas to the members of the staff of the foreign companies and organisations which travel to Afghanistan on some understandings and special agreements. (This visa shall remain valid for a period of six months and the fee shall be Afghanis 75/-).

* * * * *

Foreign nationals cannot entry Afghanistan except by the frontier routes fixed for entry into Afghanistan for checking the passports, even though h they may have the regular passports and visas and if they enter Afghanistan otherwise they shall be liable to undergo penalties under clause 26 of this Code.

The Publication of this clause cancels the provisions made in clause 19 of this Code.

* * * * * *

Amendments to Clause 3 of the Code:-

The following fees shall be charged for issuing the n entry, transit, residential, short period and permanent visas;

(a) Twelve Afghanis shall be charged as fee for granting Transit and Entry Visas per man.

(b) For issuing short period visas and its renewal, fee of Afghanis 50/- shall be charged.

(c) For issuing permanent visas and its renewal fee of Afghanis 50/- shall be charged.

Note:- The entry visa entitles the bearer for ten days stay in Afghanistan, the validity lapses after four months of the date of issue.

* * * * * * *

Addition of article 52 to the original Code:

The following persons are exempt from taking out Residential Visas and Residential permits de sejours (Residence Permits):-

(a) Members of the clerical staff of the Embassies and Legations and members of their families.

(b) Personal servants of the Heads of Diplomatic Missions living with the Heads of Diplomati Missions in one and the same building. Such servants must hold the same nationality as that of the Head of the Diplomatic Mission: Besides hodding the employments of the Heads of the Diplomatic Missions under whom they serve such personal servants are also required to indulge in no other service outside the premises of the Diplomatic Missions in which they are serving. The members of t the families of such private servants are a also exempt from taking out the Residential Visas and Residential Permits.

Note:- The Passports of the above-mentioned persons shall be seen at the Foreign Ministry.

C (c) The members of the staff of the Consulates-General, Consulates and Vice-Consulated provided they are employed only in the office and do not indulge in any other service, and the members of their families.

NOTE: - The passports of the above-mentioned persons shall be seen at the concerned Police Department.

The above rules are applicable only to the nationals of those foreign countries where the Afghan nationals enjoy the same privileges, the procedure will be reciprocal with the remaining countries.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

ABSTRACT.

PASSPORTS - Visa Regulations of Afghanistan - Letter from the Government of India - Recorded.

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